EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Acting Director-General

Brussels,
SANTE /E1/KK/oz sante.ddg2.e.1(2015)3127465

Dear Petitioner,

Subject: Statement for President's website in answer to the petition "OGM pas les risques sanitaires" (www.cyberacteurs.org)

The Commission is pleased to reply to the petition entitled "OGM pas les risques sanitaires".

EU legislation provides for a regulatory framework on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)[1], which is recognised as being among the strictest worldwide. Any GMO, before being placed on the EU market, has to undergo a case-by-case safety assessment of the highest possible and up-to-date standards by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in collaboration with Member States, in order to protect human and animal health and environment.

All the 19 GMOs which were authorised on 24 April 2015 had gone through a full authorisation procedure, including a favourable scientific assessment by EFSA, and received "no opinion" votes from Member States in both the Standing and Appeal Committees, since no qualified majority either in favour or against was expressed. The Commission adopted these decisions, as required by the current EU legal framework.

The technical dossiers submitted by applicants to EFSA, which contain raw data, are available to the public **upon request**. Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to documents and the EU legislation on GMOs aim to ensure a high level of transparency by providing wide access to documents and information to all citizens.

[1] Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC, OJ L 106, 17.4.2001; Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed, OJ L 268, 18.10.2003

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In conclusion, the Commission considers that there is no reason to adopt a ban on GMOs and hopes that the above has reassured the petitioner on the fact that the EU regulatory framework provides for a high level of scientific assessment and transparent authorisation procedure.

Yours sincerely,

For the Director General absent,
Martin SEYCHELL
Deputy Director General

Ladislav Miko